

CHAPTER
VIII. 1806 —

1807.

New system of war—Winter quarters —The Emperor's proclamation — Necessity of marching to meet the Russians — Distress in the Hanse Towns— Order for 50,000 cloaks— Seizure of Russian corn and timber — Murat's entrance into Warsaw — Re-establishment of Poland — Duroc's accident —M. de Talleyrand's carriage stopped by the mud — Napoleon's power of rousing the spirit of his troops — His mode of dictating — The Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin — His visits to Hamburg—The Duke of Weimar — His letter and present — Journey of the Hereditary Prince of Denmark to Paris — Butler, the English spy — Travelling clerks — Louis Bonaparte and the Berlin decree— Creation of the Kingdom of Saxony — Veneration of Germany for the King of Saxony —The Emperor's uncertainty respecting Poland — *Fêtes* and reviews at Warsaw—The French Government at the Emperor's headquarters — Ministerial portfolios sent to Warsaw — Military preparations during the month of January — Difference of our situation during the campaigns of Vienna and Prussia—News received and sent — Conduct of the Cabinet of Austria similar to that of the Cabinet of Berlin—Battle of Eylau — Unjust accusation against Bernadotte — Death of General d'Hautpoult — *Te Deum* chanted by the Russians — Gardanne's mission to Persia.

BONAPARTE was not only beyond all comparison the greatest captain of modern times, but he may be said to have wrought a complete change in the art of war. Before his time the most able generals regulated the fighting season by the almanac. It was customary in Europe to brave the cannon's mouth only from the first fine days of spring to the last fine days of autumn; and the months of rain, snow, and frost were passed in what were called winter quarters. Pichegru, in Holland, had set the example of indifference to temperature. At Austerlitz, too, Bonaparte had braved the severity of winter; this answered his purpose well, and he adopted the same course in 1806. His military genius and activity seemed to increase, and, proud of his troops, he determined to commence a winter campaign in a climate more rigorous than any in which he had yet fought. The men, chained to his des-